

I urge you to reject this proposal. It would grant, to a few companies, powers to restrict information travel through public resources (radio spectrum, public-rights-of-way), to generate greater income for these companies while providing no benefits to the nation or its citizens.

Internet service providers argue that they must be able to control the rights they have paid for. They argue that they must be able to commercialize these public rights of way fully to keep building new and better services. But even a cursory examination of the record of false claims and broken promises from telecommunication companies should convince a neutral observer that these arguments are specious and self-serving. Meanwhile, throttling or charging for access to these public resources would restrict what citizens can see, and how they can interact with people locally and around the world.

These are our resources. Do not let people or companies hold them hostage to private interests.

Thank you.